## TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

April 24, 2001 LB 541

segregated schools as though calling it something else is going to make a difference, but when you name only the segregated schools by the term, academy, then you've branded them anyway. That's how silly the people are in Omaha, and they're working with silly Negroes who told them to do that. But there were some teachers in those academies, not a great number, I have to be frank; as a matter of fact, more than one but fewer than three, who contacted me about the efforts they were putting forth to help the children in their class. They were making headway but then they were criticized by teachers and the principal who said that this teacher was bringing too much pressure to bear on other teachers in the schools because they were not having that success, so this teacher needs to back off. You know what that teacher's work was showing, that given competent teacher, children can learn, children will learn. But in the Omaha Public Schools, if a teacher is doing too well with a group of children who the schools have said cannot learn, then that teacher has to be drawn up short so that the stereotype characterization that the schools want to put on our children and poor white children can remain intact, so that's the way they wanted to play the game. We're playing for high stakes I will not fight for fetuses, as my Catholic friends will do, but you all are going to get a lesson in how a black man fights for real children and will yield nothing. What the Omaha Public Schools had done...how much time do I have, Mr. President?

SENATOR CUDABACK: You have about...about a minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And is this my third time?

SENATOR CUDABACK: This is your third time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then I won't...I won't attempt to say all I was going to say, but what I do want to tell you is about an experience where the Omaha Public School officials prevailed on the U.S. Department of Education's regional office in St. Louis not to hold a hearing in response to black parents' complaints because the schools did not want that hearing to take place while the Legislature was in session because that kind of